CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer-implemented method comprising:

receiving information about a multimedia content stream generated by a device in a computer network, wherein the received information includes a specified time associated with the multimedia content stream;

scheduling a recording of the multimedia content stream at the specified time; and

at the specified time,

receiving the multimedia content stream from the device; and

saving the multimedia content stream in a system memory.

2. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the device is a content server connected to the computer network.

3. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the information about the multimedia content stream includes a network address associated with the location.

4. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 3, wherein the network address is a uniform resource locator (URL).

5. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the information about the multimedia content stream is received through an application program interface.

6. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the application program interface includes a distributed component object model (DCOM) interface.

7. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein receiving information about the multimedia content stream includes receiving a scheduled recording task.

8. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the scheduled recording task includes at least one of a unique task identifier, a user account identifier, a title, a start time, a start date, an end time, an end date, a recording duration, a URL, a local storage location, a recording quality identifier, and connection settings.

9. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising at the specified time, automatically connecting to the device.

10. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 9, wherein automatically connecting to the device is performed in accordance with connection settings included in the information about the multimedia content stream.

11. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein receiving the multimedia content stream includes specifying a quality of the stream.

12. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein receiving the multimedia content stream includes specifying a quality of the stream in relation to a bandwidth associated with a network connection.

13. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the multimedia content stream includes at least one of an on-demand content stream and a broadcast content stream.

14. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the computer network includes at least one of a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), and the Internet.

15. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the computer-implemented method recited in Claim 1.

16. A computer-implemented method comprising:

enabling a user to schedule a recording of a multimedia content stream at a specified time;

creating a scheduled recording task that includes information about the recording of the multimedia content stream;

sending the scheduled recording task to a recording service configured to perform the scheduled recording task; and

tracking the scheduled recording task.

17. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein enabling the user to schedule the recording includes providing a user interface that enables the user to input the information about the recording.

18. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein the information about the recording includes at least one of a title, a start time, a start date, an end time, an end date, a recording duration, a URL, a location in system memory, a recording quality identifier, recurring data, and connection settings.

19. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein enabling the user to schedule the recording includes enabling the user to create recurring recordings.

20. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein sending the scheduled recording task to the recording service includes interacting with the recording service through an application program interface.

21. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 20, wherein the application program interface is a DCOM interface.

22. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, wherein tracking the scheduled recording task includes obtaining a status of the scheduled recording task from the recording service.

23. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 22, wherein tracking the scheduled recording task includes providing the status to the user.

24. The computer-implemented method as recited in Claim 16, further comprising if the multimedia content stream is successfully recorded, enabling the user to access the recorded multimedia content stream.

25. One or more computer-readable memories containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the computer-implemented method recited in Claim 16.

26. An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving information about a multimedia content stream provided by a device coupled to a computer network;

means for scheduling a recording of the multimedia content stream at a specified time;

means for receiving the multimedia content stream from the location; and

means for saving the multimedia content stream in a storage device.

27. The apparatus as recited in Claim 26, further comprising means for receiving the information from one or more application programs.

28. The apparatus as recited in Claim 26, further comprising means for implementing a digital rights management (DRM) system.

29. An apparatus comprising:

means for enabling a user to schedule a recording of a multimedia content stream at a specified time;

means for creating a scheduled recording task that includes information about the recording;

means for sending the scheduled recording task to a recording service configured to perform the scheduled recording task; and

means for tracking the scheduled recording task.

30. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29, further comprising means for providing a user interface to the user.

31. The apparatus as recited in Claim 29, further comprising means for enabling the user to create recurring recordings.

32. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program that, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

determine information about a multimedia content stream provided at a device coupled to a computer network, wherein the determined information includes a specified time associated with the multimedia content stream;

schedule a recording of the multimedia content stream at the specified time; and

at the specified time,

receive the multimedia content stream from the device; and

save the multimedia content stream in a storage device.

33. One or more computer-readable media as recited in Claim 32, wherein the computer program further causes the one or more processors to obtain the information from a user through a user interface.

34. One or more computer-readable media as recited in Claim 32, wherein the computer program further causes the one or more processors to obtain the information from a content index.

35. A computer comprising:

a network interface configured to connect to a computer network; and

a memory that includes a scheduled recording service configured to receive a scheduled recording task that includes information about a multimedia content

stream provided by a device in the computer network, schedule a recording of the multimedia content stream at a specified time, receiving the multimedia content stream from the device, and save the multimedia content stream in the memory.

36. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled recording service is further configured to provide an application program interface for interacting with application programs.

37. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled recording service is further configured to operate independent of a user account.

38. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled recording service is further configured to automatically establish a network connection with the device through the network interface for receiving the multimedia content stream.

39. The computer as recited in Claim 38, wherein the scheduled recording service is further configured to specify a quality associated with the multimedia content stream.

40. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled recording service is further configured to maintain a configuration file that includes information about the scheduled recording task.

41. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the scheduled recording service is further configured to maintain a log file that includes a status associated with the scheduled recording task.

42. The computer as recited in Claim 35, wherein the memory further includes a scheduling application configured to enable a user to schedule a recording of the multimedia content stream at the specified time, create the scheduled recording task that includes the information about the recording, send the scheduled recording task to the scheduled recording service; and track the scheduled recording task.

43. The computer as recited in Claim 42, wherein the scheduling application is further configured to provide a user interface to the user for scheduling the recording.

44. The computer as recited in Claim 42, wherein the scheduling application is further configured to provide a user interface to the user for tracking the recording.

45. The computer as recited in Claim 42, wherein the scheduling application is further configured to enable the user to schedule recurring recordings.